

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 IO-10 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 AS-01

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O R 171845Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5006

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6827

EO 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 6812 DTG 171345Z NOV 75

SUMMARY: PRESIDENTIAL AIDE HAS TOLD DATT THAT PRESIDENT BELIEVES AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT MUST CONTINUE UNTIL ELECTIONS. SOARES, NOW IN MEETING WITH PARTY LEADERS, BELIEVES AS OF 7:00 PM NOV 17, THAT CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT, IF ANY, WILL BE LIMITED TO A FEW SECRETARIES OF STATE. INDICATIONS ARE
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THAT AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT WILL PLOD ON UNDER FIRE UNLESS

AZOREAN SEPARATISTS MOVE NOW AND REACTION HERE FORCES
GOVERNMENT TO AN OPENING TO LEFT. END SUMMARY.

1. NEW GOVERNMENT?: DATT SPOKE TO PRESIDENTIAL CHIEF
OF ACABINET MAJOR CALDAS AT MIDDAY, NOV 17 AND QUERIED HIM
ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT AZEVEDO WOULD ATTEMPT TO FORM NEW
GOVERNMENT (REFTEL). CALDAS SAID THAT PRESIDENT BELIEVES
PRESENT GOVERNMENT MUST SERVE UNTIL ELECTIONS. IT WOULD,
IN CALDAS'S WORDS, "BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTEMPLATE A CHANGE
NOW." BG COSTA GOMES, AN AIDE TO PRESIDENT ON GENERAL
STAFF, IN LATER CONVERSATION SAID PRESIDENT WAS IN GOOD
MOOD AS RESULT OF FAVORABLE TREATMENT HE RECEIVED IN NOV 16
LISBON DEMONSTRATION. BG COSTA GOMES ALSO NOTED THAT TALK
OF MOVING GOVERNMENT TO THE NORTH WAS "HOT AIR."

2. SOARES AIDE RUI MATEUS TOLD EMBOFF AT 7:00 PM,
NOV 17 THAT PS LEADERS WERE STILL IN A MEETING THAT HAD
GONE ON ALL AFTERNOON. ALTHOUGH MEETING NOT OVER, SOARES
NOW FEELS THAT THERE WILL PROBABLY BE NO MAJOR CHANGES IN
THE GOVERNMENT EXCEPT FOR SOME SECRETARIES OF STATE.

3. PPD REACTION TO VISEU INCIDENT: INITIAL PPD REACTION
TO VISEU PRO-GOVERNMENT RALLY OF NOV 16, WHERE PS WITHDREW
BECAUSE OF SA CARNEIRO'S INSISTENCE ON SPEAKING, WAS TO
DOWNPLAY THE AFFAIR. ONE EMBASSY PPD SOURCE PRESENT AT THE
RALLY CRITICIZED SA CARNEIRO FOR AGAIN ARTIFICIALLY TAKING
ADVANTAGE OF A RALLY TO PROVOKE A DISPUTE WITH SOARES.
THE FEUD IS RECEIVING A GOOD DEAL OF ATTENTION, AND DOES
THE ANTI-COMMUNIST CAUSE NO GOOD.

4. REACTION TO NOV 16 LISBON RALLY: THE COMMUNIST-
SYMPATHIZING PRESS WAS EUPHORIC OVER THE DEMONSTRATION, WITH
THE MORNING DIARIO DE NOTICIAS DEVOTING VIRTUALLY ENTIRE
FRONT PAGE TO IT. ALL PAPERS NOTED ANTI-GOVERNMENT CHARACTER
OF THE MEETING. SEVERAL CHIDED THE SOCIALISTS FOR THEIR
ALARMS ABOUT A POSSIBLE ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE GOP.
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND GROUP OF NINE MEMBER MAJOR CANTO E
CASTRO TOLD AAIRA THAT DEMONSTRATION WAS NOT AS BAD AS IT
COULD HAVE BEEN -- A POINT OF VIEW SHARED BY SEVERAL EMBASSY
PPD AND PS SOURCES. PS ATTRIBUTES HEALTHY TURNOUT TO PCP
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ABILITY TO PAY FOR TRANSPORTATION AND FOOD TO BRING IN
COMMUNIST SUPPORTERS FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE. PS CLAIMS, IF
THEY HAD THE MONEY, THEY COULD DO THE SAME AND READILY BEAT
THE COMMUNISTS AT THEIR OWN GAME.

5. AZORES SITUATION: NOV 17 EVENING PAPERS CONTINUED TO
GIVE HEAVY PLAY TO THE AZOREAN JUNTA'S COMMUNIQUE AND THE
BOMBING OF THE PS OFFICE IN PONTA DELGADA. AS YET, HOWEVER,

THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE NO COMMENT.

6. COMMENT: SLIGHT SENSE OF RELIEF PREVAILS IN LISBON AS TENSION CREATED BY PCP-SUPPORTED SUNDAY DEMONSTRATION SUBSIDES. SIGNS, AS OF 7:00 PM NOV 17, ARE THAT AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT WILL PLOD ON UNDER FIRE. HOWEVER, A QUICK MOVE BY AZOREAN SEPARATISTS COULD UPSET BALANCE AND FORCE GOVERNMENT INTO OPENING TOWARDS THE LEFT -- ESPECIALLY SINCE PPD IN AZORES IS RECOGNIZED AS BEING HAND IN GLOVE WITH THE SEPARATISTS.
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